THERE'S A FIRE AT LORD OF JING AN'S PREFECTURE*!
PINGTING, PLEASE WAIT OUTSIDE. WE WILL GO IN AND FIND YOUR FATHER!
HE XIA HAS REBELLED!
...MASTER, TIME IS IMPORTANT. WE'LL MEET ON THE HILL LATER.
FIRE! FIRE!
BANG!

*Prefecture- In historical China (and possibly today), a 'prefecture' is a residence or mansion that is extremely big only owned by very rich families

Gu Fang Bu Zi Shang
孤芳不自赏

第一回

喜喜果◎編繪
風弄◎原著

EHH... THAT HURTS...
...THIS PLACE...
Cammie?

YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING FOR TWO DAYS I ACTUALLY THOUGHT THE SHOCK HAD KILLED YOU.
AWAKE?
IT'S VERY DANGEROUS TO BE ALONE OUTSIDE THE CITY WALLS
YOU'RE LUCKY I SAVED YOU. YOU MUST REPAY ME WELL!
Human trafficking? At this time...

I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING. PLEASE ANSWER OBEDIENTLY...
The saying, "fortune does not walk a straight line",
probably describes this situation...
Money?
...You've already caught me, what else do you want?

Could it be he knows who I am?
Wait...
Anything I have of value has already been taken.
Body?
...don't ask me that...

I-
Bai Pingting,
shall not mind sacrificing my life!
Though of course being alive would be better
If this will harm Master...
clenches
I SHALL ASK YOU...

WHICH FAMILY DID YOU ESCAPE FROM, MISS RUNAWAY WIFE?
EH?
RUNAWAY WIFE?
Fine Clothes
Beautiful Accessories
Fortunately, it's just normal human trafficking
An expression that makes one uncomfortable
Master is always spoiling me, and sometimes I look even better than the average lady...
That's why he thought I was a sheep.
Oh, I see!

I STOLE MY MISTRESS' CLOTHES. I'M ACTUALLY JUST AN AVERAGE MAID...
AH, ACTUALLY
It's true~
It's true~
It's true~
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

YOU WASTED THE LAST TWO DAYS OF MY TIME! WHO WILL BUY SOMEONE AS UGLY AS YOU?!
GO IN!
AHH!
OW!
ARE YOU OKAY?
Wow! They are all beautiful!

I'M FINE.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE'LL BE SOLD?
I HEARD THE PERSON SAY "DONG LIN"
OH, DONG LIN?
Dong Lin will be fine.
Dong Lin will be safer than Gui Le.
Master Gui Le can no longer hold our Jing An Prefecture...

Many days later, the human trafficking carriage arrived in Mo En.
Pingting and the other girls were brought to the town square and sold off.
Because Pingting wasn't beautiful enough, she was sold for the lowest price, sold to do rough work.

And so, the Hua Residence gained another ordinary girl.
Her name is...
HONG!
YES!

Due to lots and lots of reasons, I'm in Dong Lin, doing rough work under the name 'Hong'.
WRING
Master, are you doing well?
OKAY!
HELP ME WRING THIS DRY.
It's all because Master didn't let me do work, and so now, everything is pretty new to me.
HONG!
HELP ME TAKE DOWN THE CURTAINS IN THE EAST COURTYARD I CAN'T LEAVE THIS PLACE.
HMM, OKAY.
When did I ever wash this many clothes... sigh...
My hands...
IT'S FINE.
SORRY I TROUBLED YOU.

Lady is just a title for the daughter of a rich household
It's referring to the young lady for the Hua family in this context

Recently, everyone has been making preparations for the Lady's wedding. It's busy and the perfect time to escape.
I already know the route. When the time comes, I'll flee.
THAT'S IT.
AHH!
IT'S A BIT HEAVY. WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO HELP?
Wait for me, Master. Pingting will be beside you soon!
IT'S FINE!

If Master knew I was sold for only forty dollars by those dealers, he might even faint from laughter.
GEEZ, QUIT FOLLOWING ME!
BUT
AHH!

Wow, a beauty!
My head! Ow!
LADY, LADY, ARE YOU OKAY?
It's actually my first time seeing Lady since entering this prefecture.
LADY, ARE YOU OKAY?
stares
Huge...

HOW CAN I BE OKAY?!
Ahh
NEW?
YES.
TURN AROUND.
EH?
LIKE THIS?

LADY !!
That tickles!
KYAA!
HMM~
COME WITH ME.
Eh?

PUT THIS ON.
ISN'T THIS YOURS?
PUT IT ON AND DON'T ASK QUESTIONS!
YES!

YES~
NOT BAD, NOT BAD~
Not evil
YOU BODY SHAPE IS THE SAME AS MINE, AND IF ONE DOESN'T LOOK AT YOUR FACE, THEY WILL THINK YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.
.....
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HONG.

HONG,
I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.
dong
dong
SHI ZU, PLEASE COME THIS WAY.

shuts-
HURRY, CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES!
DO I ONLY HAVE TO PLAY THE QIN*?
YES, IT'S ALL BECAUSE THAT GIRL, DONG-ER, WAS SICK AND SO I HAD TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE.
catches

*Qin- Chinese zither (string instrument)

I'm leaving.
I still don't know how good Lady's playing is...
SLAM
.....
AH, LADY, WAIT...
REMEMBER, DON'T PAUSE FOR TOO LONG
IF THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU, THE MASTERS AND GARDENER MAY COME IN TO CHECK ON YOU.
Like a guy?
I'LL BE BACK WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.
How promising!
turns
YOU MUST NOT REST, OR YOU'LL BE IN TROUBLE.
Good luck!
Secret Passage

The passage Lady used might be helpful. This isn't a waste of time.
No, maybe to see someone?
What a capricious lady.
It's nearly her marriage, yet she still crossdresses to play outside...
Since I don't know how good Lady is, I'll just casually play a few notes.
calm-

calm
calm

calm-
calm-
calm-

錚
SHA CLANG!!

This Qin hasn't been played recently, so the sound isn't articulating properly.
Master loves to dance along to the sound of Pingting's qin music.
Master~
I'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH A HEAVENLY MELODY IN MY LIFE
IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO SEE YOU?

When...

I was supposed to play without stopping with only the Iwa family around...
I dropped my guard and now I'm in trouble...
Lady isn't here and some random person is outside. The truth will be out!
No, I must answer him!
.....
silence

LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T SEE LADY'S BEAUTIFUL PLAYING TODAY.
SINCE THAT'S THE CASE, I CAN ONLY WAIT FOR ANOTHER AUSPICIOUS DATE.
laughs
Fortunately, he's empathetic...
He's gone...

SIGH. THE DAY PASSED TOO QUICKLY.
Why do I feel a little uneasy?
DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE I WENT? WHO I SAW?
EH?
I CAN ASK?
I bet it's you who wants to tell.
ACTUALLY, I FELL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE I SHOULDN'T HAVE!
OH?
Girls talk
OUR FAMILIES ARE COMPETITORS IN THE BUSINESS WORLD, BUT DESTINY PUSHED US TOGETHER
IF MY FATHER KNEW THAT I WANTED TO MARRY THE SON OF HIS ARCHENEMY...

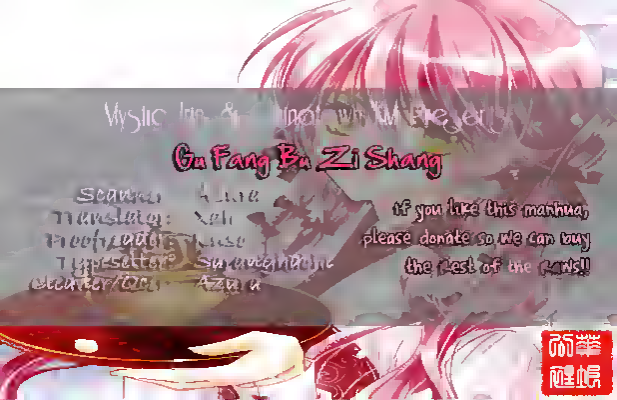
WHAT'S WRONG, HOUSE-KEEPER?
KYAA!
BUMP!
Who is that?

Guqin is another name for qin. Gu just means ancient

Could it be...
What?
WHO IS YOUR MASTER?
You even got a present!
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU COULD PLAY SO WELL!
FORGIVE ME, LADY MY MASTER WISHES YOU NOT KNOW HIS NAME.
BUT MASTER ALSO SAID THAT ON ONE AUSPICIOUS DAY, HE SHALL COME TO SEE YOU

LADY, THEY'RE GONE, SO LET'S GO.
THIS QIN
KNOCK
This...is... a Fengtong Guqin?

My master couldn't even buy a Fengtong Gugin when he offered thousands.
Giving away such an expensive present like that...
Who is that person?
.....
HURRY UP AND GO!
HOW ANNOYING...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OHH
AHH
HEY
Catch as catch can!
Too late.
HOW DARE YOU
YANK!
HIT ME..
CRACK!
JUST BECAUSE WE ONLY HAVE
FIVE ACTIVE STAFF!?
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SLAM!!
Should we help?
No idea!
What's up with them?
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孤芳不自赏
Gu Fang Bu Zi Shang
Chapter 2

STA
RES
Here
YOU'RE NO FUN AT ALL!
Ouch, that hurt!
I'M SO TIRED.
That needle method is wrong
I GOT JABBED A LOT TOO, WHEN I STARTED.
Look, you do it like this

IT'S ALL THE HOUSE-KEEPER'S FAULT. WHY DID HE HAVE TO SNITCH TO FATHER ABOUT THAT QIN PERSON
HE'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU LADY,
BECAUSE NO ONE KNOWS WHO THAT PERSON IS BETTER NOT PLAY THE QIN AROUND THERE ANY-MORE...
Yes, it's all your fault!
Ah, it's my fault
I WONDER WHAT THE PERSON WHO GAVE THE QIN IS LIKE.
My master is the most handsome though.
YEAH.
Definitely not as handsome as the person I'll marry!

HE'S HERE!
HE'S HERE!
LADY, THAT PERSON IS HERE!

The usual topics are Lady's lover and the mysterious qin person
Maybe it's because of the age similarity or because of the qin incident we've had countless things to talk about
Ever since we returned, Lady Hua has taken a liking to me and has raised my status to a personal maid
HE'S LOOKING FOR YOU LADY, NOT ME.
SEE? I GUESSED RIGHT. HE CAME LOOKING FOR YOU.
FINALLY.
WHY BE SO NERVOUS NOW? COME WITH ME.
To be honest, I'm curious about that person too...

He really came.
PUT DOWN THE CURTAINS.
First asking to see me, then giving away a qin
Coming days later means that he must have done research about the Hua family.
HOUSE-KEEPER, YOU MAY BRING HIM OVER NOW.

Research before action,
He isn't a shallow person...

I, DONG DINGNAN, SHALL RECKLESSLY BOW TO LADY.
!

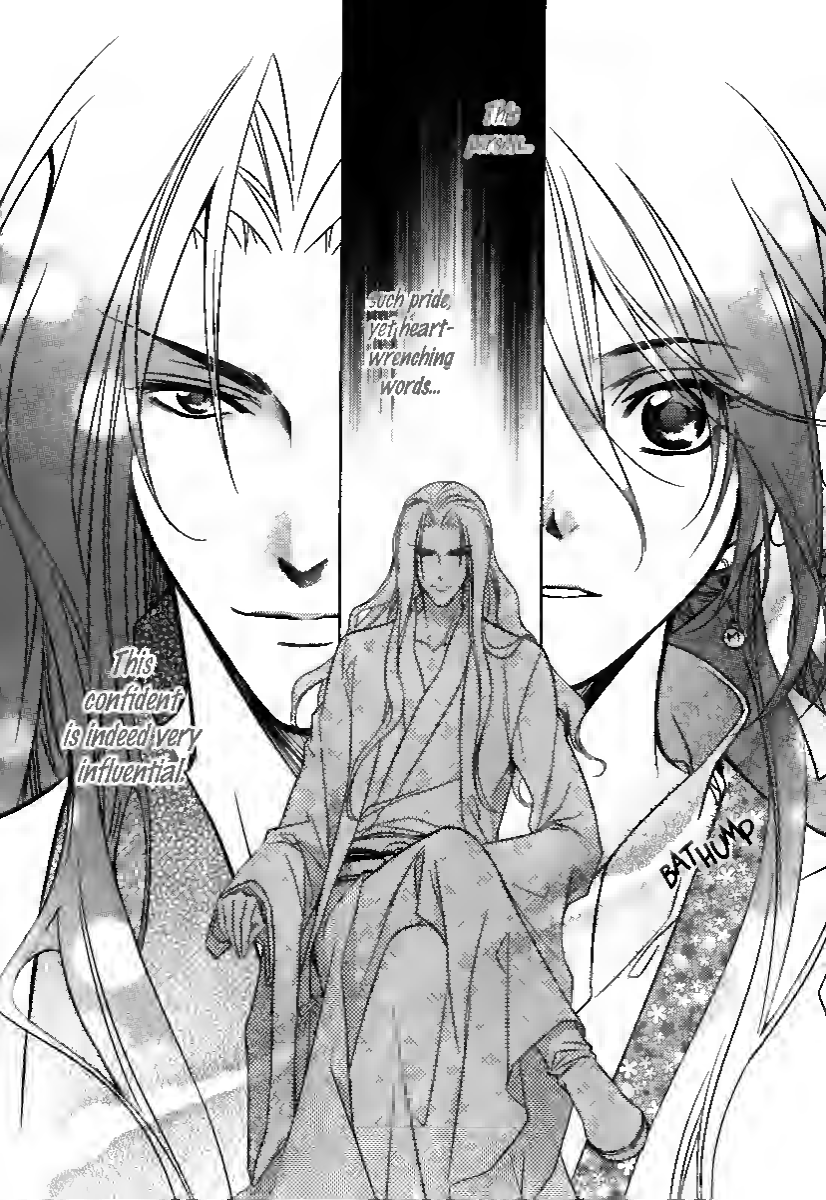
Hmph!
You must have played well because you actually attracted such a good looking guy
.....
Look at me!
IF YOU FEEL SUCH SHAME, WHY DO YOU WISH TO SEE LADY?
LADY NEVER SEES UNEX-PECTED VISITORS.
LADY'S MUSIC CAPTIVATED MY HEART. I SHALL BE SATISFIED IF I HEAR ONE MORE MELODY.

He isn't just some rich person, but his family must have some authority in Dong Lin.
From his clothes, you can tell he is of nobility.
There is also this proud and arrogant air around him.
But I can't remember any major family in Dong Lin with the surname "Dong".
(T/N: This surname "Dong" is different from the one in "Dong Lin")
ARE YOU REALLY HERE JUST TO ASK TO HEAR MUSIC?
YES.
YOU GAVE ME THAT QIN BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO HEAR MUSIC?
THAT IS CORRECT.
Maybe... this person is using a fake name!!

PLAYING THE QIN IS ONE THING, BUT PLAYING FOR A PERSON WHO HIDES HIS REAL NAME ISN'T A GREAT FEELING.
WHY DOES LADY THINK I'M USING A FAKE NAME?
Eh? Fake name?
.....
DON'T ASK ME WHY, JUST TELL ME WHETHER I'M RIGHT OR NOT.
LAUGHS

I guessed right!
CLUTCH
It really was a fake name!
LADY IS AMAZING DONG DING-NAN ISN'T MY REAL NAME
CLAP CLAP
WHY ARE YOU USING A FAKE NAME?
WHY DOES LADY REFUSE TO SEE HER GUEST?
IS SEEING GUEST REALLY THAT IMPORT-ANT?
ARE NAMES REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?
ANGR

HOW CAN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT?
IF YOU WISH TO HEAR MY MUSIC, OF COURSE YOU'LL HAVE TO TELL ME YOUR REAL NAME TO SHOW SINCERITY.
I lose.
nods
DOES LADY NOT HAVE ANY WISH?
SITS
WHAT DO I NEED A WISH FOR?
I didn't say you could sit yet.
LADY IS NATURALLY WISHING FOR A SOUL-MATE.


The general...
such pride, yet heart-wrenching words...
This confident is indeed very influential.
BATHUMP

BATHUMP
SILENCE
SOUL-MATE, HUH?
WELL, I HAVE A SONG FOR YOU TO ENJOY.

when there is trouble, there are heroes...
surviving turmoil, surviving the disaster...
when there are heroes, there are beautiful women...

TIGHTENS
THIS "SURVIVING THE TROUBLE" SONG IS ACTUALLY ENFORCED BY THE PAIN AND SUFFERINGS OF THE BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, BUT FROM YOU, THERE'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FEELING
IT FEELS MORE VICTORIOUS THAN EVEN A MAN'S.

GOOD ANALYSIS, BUT UNLIKE MEN, I DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHTS TO AGREE TO THAT.
ALSO, I HEARD THAT GUI LE, BESIDES DONG LIN, IS A VERY BEAUTIFUL PLACE.
AH, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU WERE INTERESTED IN THINGS LIKE THAT.
Maybe I really met my soulmate, but at the moment, I'm worried about Master.
HE XIA, THE YOUNG MASTER OF THE JING AN PREFECTURE, SEEMS TO BE COMPARING GUI LE TO DONG LIN.
I'M CURIOUS. IF THEY ARE REALLY BEING COMPARED, WHICH ONE IS BETTER?
MY FATHER HAS DOES A LOT OF TRAVELING AND HEARS MANY THINGS, SO I DO GET CURIOUS.
He Xia is PingTing's "Master".

I ALSO HEARD THAT HE XIA AND THE LORD OF ZHEN BEI* WERE FIGHTING. WHO WON?
*Zhen Bei is a place, just like Dong Lin and Gui Le.
HE XIA WAS VICTORIOUS.
SO THE LORD OF ZHEN BEI LOST?
NO, THE LORD OF ZHEN BEI WAS VICTORIOUS TOO.

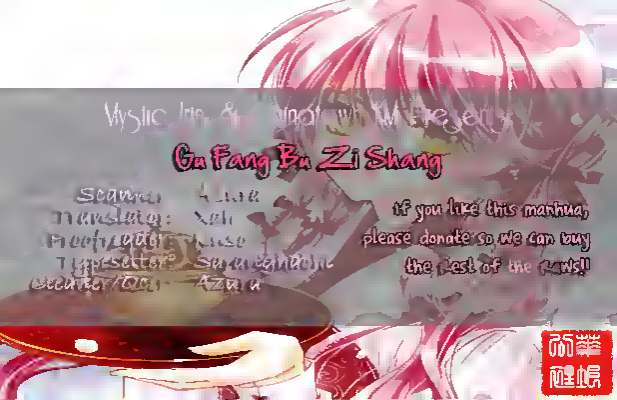
HE XIA HAD THE MINOR VICTORY. LORD OF ZHEN BEI HAD THE MAJOR VICTORY.
GUI LE IS RICH, BUT THEY DO NOT KNOW HOW TO FIGHT.
THE NEW RULER DISLIKES THE ORIGINAL LORD OF JING AN'S SOLDIERS.
THAT BATTLE NOT ONLY ENDED THE TWO YEAR CONFLICT, BUT ALSO CAUSED THE RULER OF GUI LE TO WANT TO GET RID OF THE LORD OF JING AN'S PREFECTURE.
This person ...
This person knows everything... too well.

LADY, ARE YOU BORED WITH ALL THE POLITICAL NEWS?
NO...
AND AFTER THAT MASSIVE FIRE? EVERYTHING IN GUI LE IS A MESS.
ring ring
Who is he?
It doesn't sound like he's just a witness of this, but a person who carefully plotted this...

I, DINGNAN, DON'T FEEL TOO GOOD FOR DAMPENING LADY'S MOOD. I'LL BE BACK IN TWO DAYS.
EH?
LADY MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE THE SON OF THE LORD OF JING AN SOON.

I MUST TAKE MY LEAVE NOW.
Did Master get caught and is on his way here?
PLEASE WAIT.
WHAT?

Could he be the Lord of Zhen Bei-
Wait, how does he know? Maybe he's from the enemy side....
Chu Beijie?!
He can give away an expensive Fengtong qin and know so much about battle...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What's up with them?
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孤芳不自赏
Gu Fang Bu Zi Shang
Chapter 3

No, no way...
This must be a coincidence...
But, his words really did give that impression...
Could he really be Zhen Beiwang's --- Chu Beijie?
CLUTCH
...Master is in danger!

What should I do?
AH~ IT'S FINALLY OVER.
YOU'RE POLITIC-CRAZED AND YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING FUN. IT WAS TOO LONG.
Not fun
EH? WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING, HONG?
HUH..?
HE LEFT, BUT YOU'RE STILL JUMPY.
MAYBE THE ROMANCE HAS ALREADY STARTED.
Pingting, anxiety can cause problems.
Calm down.
Master!

MAS-
TER!
MAS-
TER!
MAS-
TER!
MAS-
TER!
You always disappear in a blink of an eye.

MASTER! DO YOU REALIZE THAT WHEN YOU DISAPPEAR, YOU MAKE ALL OF US NERVOUS!
SORRY, SORRY.
PING-TING, I'M HERE!
PINGTING, LOOK!
It's very cute!

DIN-
NER!
NO
WAY!

LOOK, I ALREADY AGREED NOT TO EAT HIM, SO STOP BEING ANGRY, OKAY?
I WOULDN'T DARE TO.
YOU'RE MOCKING ME!
IT'S THANKS TO YOU ATTRACTING THE ENEMIES TO THE MOUNTAINS, THAT VICTORY WAS POSSIBLE. I MUST GET FATHER TO REWARD YOU.
MORE REWARD?!

YOU'VE ALREADY GIVEN ME ENOUGH MONEY TO LAST ME TEN LIFE-TIMES!
.....
I JUST HOPE THAT YOU COULD BE MORE OPEN WHEN YOUR MIND IS SOME-WHERE ELSE.
I CAN'T HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU.
YOU'RE A STRANGE GIRL.

TO BE HONEST, THOUGH WE WON BEIJIE ON THE SURFACE, WE LOST UNDERNEATH.
MASTER IS RIGHT.
DONG LIN MAY HAVE RETREATED, BUT MANY ARE WOUNDED IN GUI LE. IF DONG LIN ATTACKS, GUI LE WILL PROBABLY GIVE IN.
IT'S THE MAIN RULER'S FAULT FOR NOT LETTING MASTER TAKE OVER JING ANWANG PREFECTURE...
PINGTING, DON'T CRITICIZE THE RULER.
THE NEW RULER ISN'T THE PRINCE SUI WE KNEW
YES.
...PING-TING HAS ANOTHER QUESTION.
SAY IT.

SO WHY DID THEY RETREAT WHEN VICTORY WAS IN SIGHT FOR THEM?
BEIJIE MUST KNOW THE SITUATION OF OUR SOLDIERS...
BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE RULER WILL PERSONALLY GO TO THE JING ANWANG PREFECTURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SOLDIERS' VICTORY
IF MASTER RETURNS WITH VICTORY, YOU'LL BE REWARDED AND EVERYONE WILL STILL ADORE YOU...
BUT THE RULER WILL PROBABLY HATE YOU MORE...
IT'S DANGEROUS TO RETURN TO THE CITY...
MASTER...

DON'T WORRY.
ANXIETY ALWAYS MESSES THINGS UP.
MAS-TER...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR EYES?!
EH?
HONG!
Were you thinking about that man last night?
Liar! you have black circles under your eyes!
NO... NO WAY ...
I UNDER-STAND.
Last night, I was thinking about the Master's latest news.
When I first saw him, I didn't sleep for a whole night!
I didn't sleep well!
But I wonder when he'll come back ..

I GUARANTEE HE'LL COME BACK IN THREE DAYS.
REALLY?
Let's ignore him again.
.....
Not again.
When I ignore him, he'll try to cheer me up. This and that~
These days, I really believe Lady Hua is crazy.
But, it's not entirely impossible that he could...
Hong, your face is red.
blushes
But that's for the future...

Sun-
set
Mid-
day
Sun-
rise
SIGH
...
He won't come today. ..What am I looking forward to anyway? I'm an idiot
HONG, CHEER UP.
THERE'S STILL TOMORROW AND THE NEXT DAY
DOWN-CAST
LADY, THERE'S SOMEONE WANTING TO SEE YOU.
SUDDEN INTEREST
Bring him!

He came?
Eh?
HELLO. MY MASTER HAS ASKED ME TO PRESENT YOU WITH ANOTHER GIFT..
WHAT IS THIS ?!?!
...FOR ME?
I wait for a day and I get a bronze statue...
HONG, CALM DOWN.
THIS STATUE IS FROM GUI LE, AND ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT VERY POPULAR, THE HANDIWORK IS IMPRESSIVE

NOT VERY POPULAR?
This is made by one of Gui Le's most acclaimed bronze carvers. It's not just "popular"!
But...
SINCE YOU DON'T SEEM TO LIKE IT, I'LL TAKE IT BACK TO MY MASTER.
LAST TIME IT WAS A GUQIN, THIS TIME A BRONZE STATUE, WHAT'S TOMORROW'S?
AS A WOMAN, I CANNOT REFUSE GIFTS.
AND IT ISN'T POSSIBLE TO EXCHANGE IT FOR SOMETHING ELSE.

HOUSE-KEEPER, PLEASE ESCORT HIM!
WHY ISN'T HE HERE PERSONALLY?
LADY ISN'T PLEASED WITH SUCH A HALF-HEARTED GIFT!
DEPRESSED
DEPRESSED
DEPRESSED
YOU MEN ONLY KNOW HOW TO MAKE WOMEN SAD!
NO! NO!
LADY, PLEASE LISTEN, IT'S...
HOUSE-KEEPER, PLEASE ESCORT HIM!
TAP
TAP
TAP

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
laughs
DID SHE REALLY SAY THAT?
IF SHE WAS A MAN, I WOULD DEFINITELY MAKE HER ONE OF MY GENERALS.
ANY-WAY,
IT LOOKS LIKE I UNDER-ESTIMATED THE ENEMY.

sigh
I CAN'T SLEEP TONIGHT.
I DIDN'T GET ANY NEWS ABOUT MASTER... I'M SO WORRIED...
"DONG DINGNAN" WILL DEFINITELY COME TOMORROW BECAUSE I SHOOED AWAY THAT MAN.
IF HE COMES,
I MUST FIRST SPEAK NICELY...

COME AGAIN...
BA-DUMP
EH?

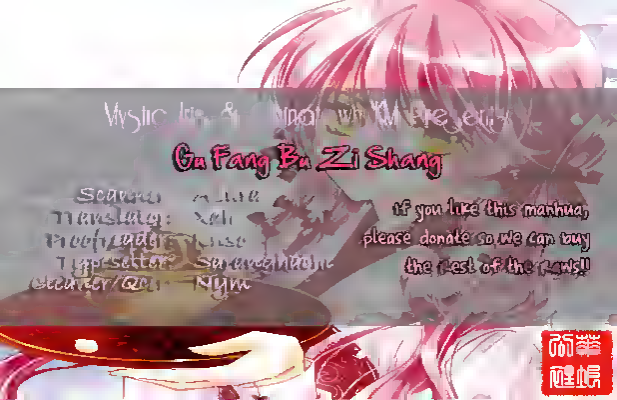
blush
Why do I keep seeing his face?
CLAW
CLAW
CLAW
CLAW
AND...

I have seen many beautiful women
But that person yesterday was different
Though her qin technique wasn't the best,
every note was crystal clear and pierced one's heart...
The song and the qin melody are so hard to forget...

JUST THINKING ABOUT IT ALREADY MAKES ME FEEL UN-COMFORT-ABLE...

MASTER, YOU...
EH?
SHE IS A PHOENIX.
I AM THE PURSUER OF PHOENIX.

AND I'M GOING TO DECLARE MY ADORATION FOR HER.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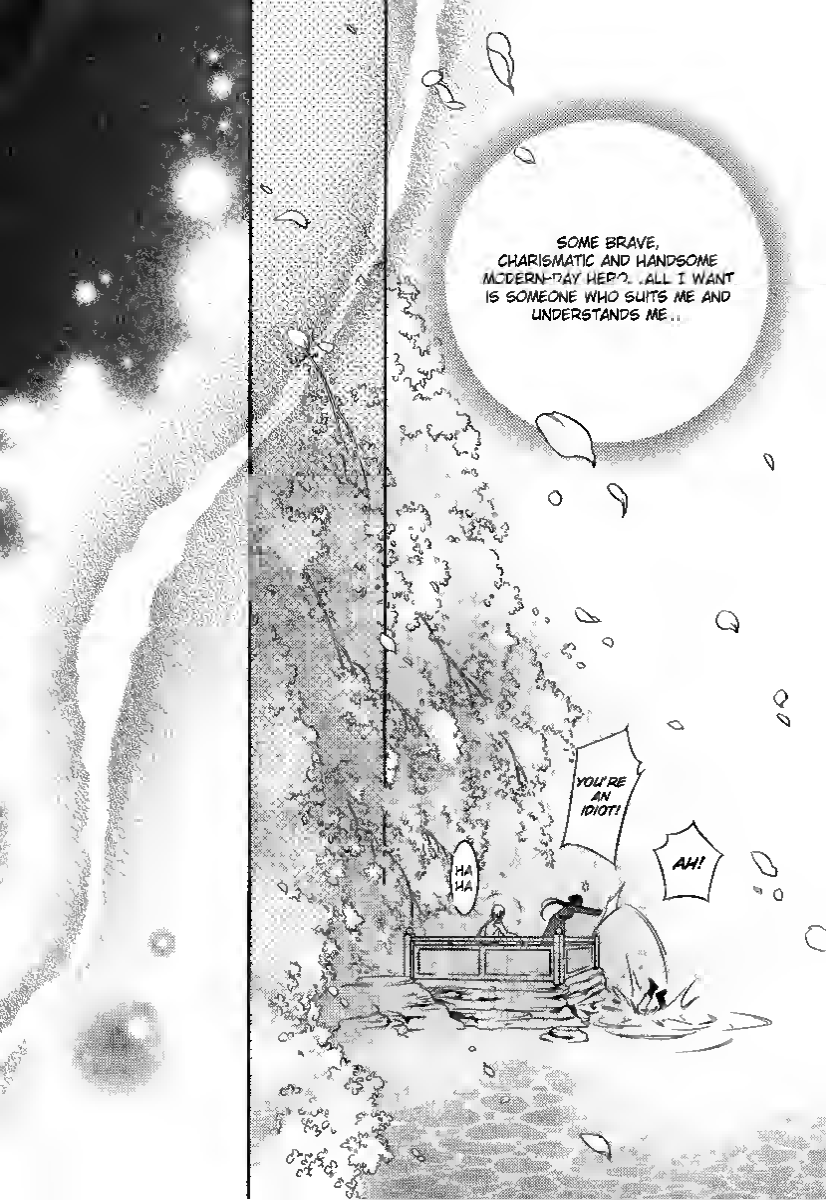
GU FANG BU ZI SHANG

CHAPTER 4

孤芳不自赏

第四回

.. WHAT KIND OF PERSON WOULD PINGTING LIKE TO MARRY?
HMM..
MASTER, PINGTING HAS A SECRET CRUSH ON YOU.
I DON'T!
Hahaha
AREN'T YOU REFERRING TO OUR MASTER?
HEY!
Haha
OF COURSE I WOULD LIKE A BRAVE, CHARISMATIC AND HANDSOME MODERN-DAY HERO.


SOME BRAVE, CHARISMATIC AND HANDSOME MODERN-DAY HERO. ..ALL I WANT IS SOMEONE WHO SUITS ME AND UNDERSTANDS ME..
YOU'RE AN IDIOT!
AH!
HA HA

CHANG, CHANG
IT'S HUMID,
SO BE CAREFUL WITH THE CANDLES.
CHANG, CHANG
CHANG, CHANG
CLACK!

A-CHOO
Sigh. It's so cold.
I'd better go in
If I'm not careful enough I'll start doing that old habit again
EH?

There's...
!!
!

There's a thief!
!

DON'T MAKE A SOUND.
I, DONG DINGNIAN, DO NOT HAVE ANY BAD INTENTIONS

It's him!?
ARE YOU THE MAID OF LADY HUA? PLEASE DON'T CALL FOR HELP WHEN I LET GO
NODS
This is... my first time seeing him up close.

He'll recognize my voice.
IS YOUR LADY ALREADY ASLEEP?
SHOCK
DO YOU KNOW WHO TAUGHT YOUR LADY QIN?
NODS
I'll have to pretend I'm mute...
Ah, ah.
OH, YOU CAN'T SPEAK.
There's a lot I wanted to ask...
But it still ended up like this.
How disheartening

To be honest, what's he doing here?
So late
.....
SUSPICIOUS
SUSPICIOUS
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T HARASS YOUR LADY.
I'M SITTING NIGHT VIGIL FOR MY BELOVED PHOENIX

Night vigil...
Could it be that Dong Lin tradition...
YOU CAN SLEEP NOW.
The man guards his lover's house outside for three whole nights...
But that only ever happens three days before marriage...
BA- DUMP!

PUSH
This person is brave. He claims to sit night vigil when he isn't even engaged.
What should I do?

He's standing there, not even moving
Geez, he doesn't have to be that solemn, right?
Why not sit down?
Should I even go to sleep?

Ah, damn it!!
I fell asleep!
Where is he? Where?
...left already?

Sigh.
LITTER DOOM
WHAT'S WRONG HONG? YOU DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD
HONG, IF THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG, PLEASE TELL ME? I'LL TRY TO SOLVE IT.

I must be crazy.
Dong Dingnan stood outside for a whole night and i watched him.
He's probably crazy too.
Will he come again, tonight?

……
HE CAME!!

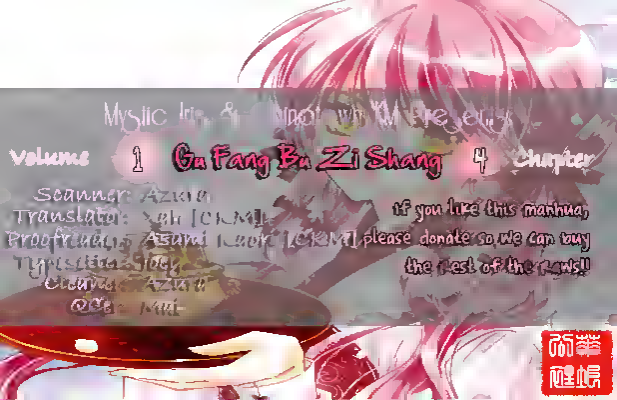
SWISH
SWISH
OH IT'S YOU.
I'M NOT TIRED.
Not sitting?
FINE, I'LL SIT.

What am I looking at?
Probably just
She's back...
GOOD THINKING.
HAPPY

YOUR LADY DEFINITELY LIKES YOU.
YOU HAVE AMAZING EYES.
TO HAVE SUCH A PRETTY MAID LIKE YOU, YOUR LADY'S BEAUTY IS HARD TO IMAGINE.
……
?

PUSH
Maid Pinging, Liar Pinging.
Why am I so heartless, why am I so evil?
Liar!
But,
I never wanted to lie to him...

It's all because I am from the Jing Anwang Prefecture and in enemy territory.
Cough cough
Who wants to be a liar anyways.....?


Mystic Inn & Magic in Mirage
Volume 1 Gu Fang Bu Zi Shang 4 Chapter
Scanner: Azura
Translator: Yah [CKM]
Proofreader: Asami Chan [CKM]
Typesetter: Jay
Cleaner: Azura
QC: Mai
If you like this manhua, please donate so we can buy the rest of the raws!!

Do you know how to translate Japanese, Korean, Chinese or Vietnamese?
Or how to use Photoshop to clean and typeset mangas?
You do, don't you? And yet you didn't bother to help Mystic Iris?! SHAME ON YOU!!
He's right...
Even though I know that Mystic Iris is low on staff, I didn't bother to help
I feel so guilty! I have the ability to help but I didn't... I go help them out right now!!
E-MAIL US (MYSTICIRISFOREVER@GMAIL.COM) IF YOU WANT TO JOIN MYSTIC IRIS. WE ACCEPT BOTH EXPERIENCED AND NON-EXPERIENCED PEOPLE. EDITORS AND TRANSLATORS NEEDED!
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http://ckmscans.halofight.com

CKM Scans is also translating the novel of Gu Fang Bu Zi Shang!!

you can find it at our forum...

孤芳不自賞

風弄◎著　喜喜果◎插畫

Gu Fang Bu Zi Shang was originally a novel, it was adapted into a manhua several years before it first started (four years maybe?) Also, the novel was adapted to a Drama CD too.....

We're still recruiting translators for this project (both manhua and novel)

http://ckmscans.halofight.com

架空之都

孤芳不自赏
Chapter 4
Gu Fang Bu Zi Shang

Due to two sleepless nights and the cold, Pingting slept through the next day.
WHAT?!
HE...HE CAME YESTERDAY?
COUGH!COUGH!COUGH!
YEAH,
HE CAME WHILE YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A COUGHING FIT AND A HIGH FEVER.
I WAS SO NERVOUS THAT I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING. I COULD ONLY PRETEND TO BE SICK AND SEND HIM AWAY.

HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
OH.
DID HE SAY ANYTHING TO LADY?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT~
Don't worry, if he really likes you he will come again.
Maybe he didn't tell anyone about the night visit.
In short, he totally disappeared...
COUGH COUGH
My heart is getting more and more messed up these days...

I wish I could stay here,
if I could continue to watch that person...
YOU AGAIN?

grab
It's hot!
WHAT'S WRONG?
float
YOU'RE SICK?
ba-thump

What's... with this guy? He cares nothing for social conventions.
Let go~
tug
But those two words
are enough to comfort me...

WHERE IS YOUR ROOM?
!!
What, what's he doing now?

I almost spoke aloud just then
This person must be crazy!
IT'S A COLD NIGHT AND YOU'RE SICK
I WONDER HOW YOUR LADY LOOKS AFTER YOU.
SLEEP.

Should I sleep now?
Even though he's a bit clumsy, he does get things done thoroughly.
It feels a bit awkward...
I'm going out.
Stare

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND GO TO SLEEP.
blink
Curious expression
open
GO TO SLEEP.
Okay
So there are times when he can be uncollected too-
She's such a disobedient, mute maid.
Is she deaf as well?
!

GULP
BATHUMP

CLOSE YOUR EYES, I'M GOING OUT.
HURRIES
CLENCH
.....
What's wrong with me today?

This night and this unexpected occurence...

Good news~
HONG!
COME, COME,
LET ME WHISPER IT IN YOUR EAR.
HM?
THAT DONG DING NAN IS REALLY OUR ZHEN BEIWANG
APPARENTLY,
EH?!

Dong Lin's official.
Zhen Bei-wang ?!
Gui Le's enemy
Dong Lin's best fighter.
He's the Zhen Bei-wang?!
Master's scariest opponent!!

I SAW HIS PORTRAIT YESTERDAY BUT OH GOD, HE'S THE MIGHTY ZHEN BEIWANG!
HONG ?
HONG?
STIFF
HONG, WE'RE LIKE SISTERS, SO YOU WILL HELP ME RIGHT?
EH?
TO BE HONEST,
I'VE ALREADY SENT THE HOUSEKEEPER TO PASS A LETTER ONTO ZHEN BEI-WANG.
IT SAYS THAT I'M CURRENTLY ENGAGED AND NOT A FREE WOMAN. IT SAYS THAT IF HE IS WILLING TO EXERT HIS AUTHORITY AND CANCEL MY MARRIAGE, IT WILL BE EASIER TO CARRY THINGS OUT IN THE FUTURE.
WH... WHAT ?

WHEN MY MARRIAGE IS CANCELLED I'LL TELL ZHEN BEI WANG THE TRUTH...
YOU... YOU...
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I DON'T LIKE MY FIANCE
ARE YOU CRAZY?
EH?

IF HE FINDS OUT THAT WE'VE BEEN LYING TO HIM, THE HUA PREFECTURE WILL BE IN DEEP TROUBLE.
ZHEN BEI-WANG IS A DANGEROUS PERSON!
...HE LIKES YOU. I'M SURE HE WON'T MIND THE FACT YOU BORROWED MY IDENTITY.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
He's Zhen Beiwang, he's that Zhen Beiwang!
He's a hero, but when it comes to killing, he is the bloodiest devil.
He's the man who made a blood river out of Cui Le soldiers.
You can't fall for him!

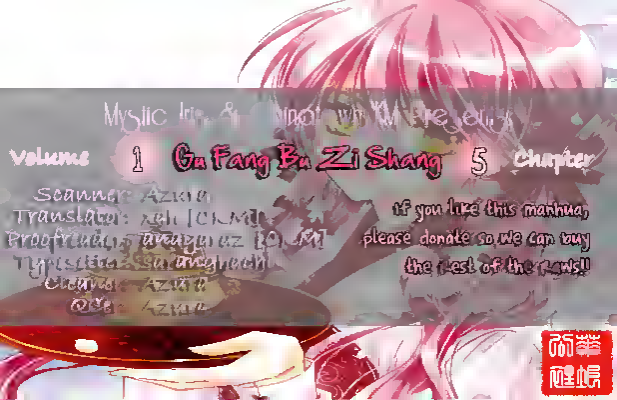
TELL THE HOUSE-KEEPER NOT TO SEND THE LETTER.
BUT...
THE HOUSE-KEEPER JUST CAME BACK, SHE EVEN TOLD ME ME ZHEN BEIWANG'S RESPONSE
WHAT?
.....
ex-hausted
WHAT DID HE SAY?
EH?
WHAT DID HE SAY?

HE SAID,
"TOMORROW, LADY HUA WILL BE FREE AGAIN."
Tomorrow?

He won't forgive them, after all, he's Zhen Beiwang.
I can't stay here for no reason. Well, Hua Prefecture... good luck.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

When Zhen Beiwang came to visit again, Pingting had already gone. Lady Hua could only tell him the truth.
He didn't glare at anyone, yell or lose his temper.
He just stayed outside Pingting's room for awhile and then left without saying a word.
Zhen Bei-wang's Pre-fec-ture

MO RANG!
HERE
YES.
TOMORROW, AT SUNSET, EXECUTE THE ENTIRE HUA FAMILY.
DON'T MISS OUT ON ANY-ONE.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Cleaner: Azura
QC: Azura
If you like this manhua, please donate so we can buy the rest of the raws!!

Message to some fans:

I know that some people wanted to read the novel? You're right it is being translated. The layout might be a bit confusing, but just go to the link at the bottom right corner of this page. Then you'll (hopefully) be OK.

-xdh

孤芳不自赏

GU FANG BU ZI SHANG

FENG NONG - AUTHOR
XI XI GUO - ART

Please support the author and the artist by buying a copy of the manhua and/or novel in its original language or when its local translation comes out in your store.

http://ckmscans.halofight.com/t147-read-this-first

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Cleaners

Translators

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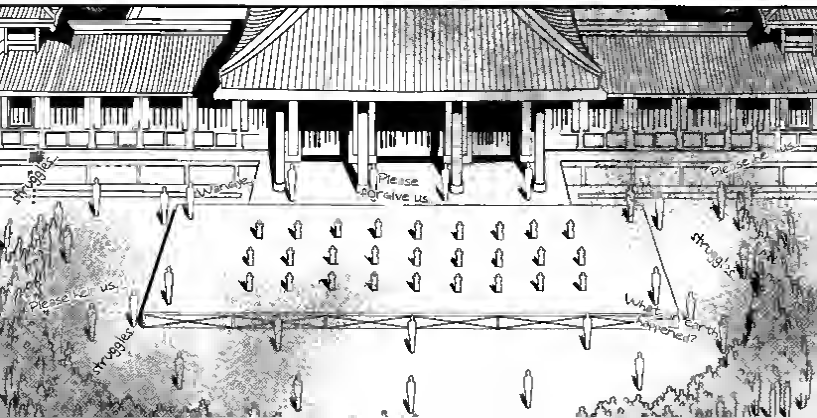
孤芳不自赏
Gu Fang Bu Zi Shang
Chapter 6

SOMETHING BIG HAPPENED!
THE FAMOUS HUA FAMILY, FOR SOME REASON, HAS MADE ZHEN BEIWANG SO ANGRY THAT HE HAS ORDERED ALL OF THEM TO BE EXECUTED
EH—!!
...THE HUA FAMILY MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING EXTREMELY SHAMEFUL TO DESERVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS
OUR ZHEN BEIWANG IS ACTUALLY A VERY KIND WANGYE
THE HUA FAMILY HAS ALREADY BEEN CAPTURED BY ZHEN BEIWANG, DO YOU WANT TO SEE THEM?
Let's go!
Oh really?
COUGH!
COUGH!

...Executed...
...It should not be like that...

brush brush
concentrated
STARES
Such a heavy atmosphere...
Oo
sweat drips
ARE YOU HOT?
NO!
YOU MAY WIPE YOUR SWEAT
YES!

Wipe sweat!
Wipe sweat!
Hmph!


Please forgive us
Please forgive us
Please forgive us
Please forgive us
Please forgive us
struggles
struggles
struggles

CHATTER
...AT SUNSET.
WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO BE EXECUTED?
CHATTER
everyone in the Hua family...
Lady...

...sorry...
WANGYE,
IT'S ABOUT TIME.

IT'S TIME?
...This is tedious...
KILL THEM.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
GOONG

GOONG~
GOONG~
GOONG~
where there is trouble, there are heroes.
there are beautiful women.
surviving the turmoil, surviving the disaster
if there are soldiers, there will be fame;
if there is fame, there will be fraud;
soldiers know fraud, soldiers know fraud...
?

SOLDIERS KNOW FRAUD?
Hmph
DON'T KILL THEM YET.
Yes
BRING THE GIRL WHO'S PLAYING THAT QIN TO MY PREFECTURE.
COUGH!
COUGH!

stares
glare

I AM HERE, WANGYE.
You are... finally here...

You messed up my life...
and I stood outside another woman's door for three whole nights...
I HAVE SEEN MANY THINGS TODAY.
YOU ARE THE LADY AND THE MAID,
YOU ARE A MUTE YET YOU CAN SING
Despite doing these heinous frauds, you stand before me not dreading and not provoking,
not scared nor pleased.
IF THERE IS ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN DO LET ME SEE IT.

How infuriating!
IS WANGYE MAD?
What do you think?
HMPH.
YOU KNOW THAT SOLDIERS KNOW FRAUD.
Damn girl,
she ought to be tortured, then thrown into jail,
SO YOU DO REALIZE HOW BIG THE RISK YOU JUST TOOK WAS RIGHT?
left to the wolves in the forest and thrown off a cliff.

IF IT WORKED, ALL WOULD BE WELL.
SINCE IT'S LIKE THAT. FEEL FREE TO PUNISH ME WANGYE
bows
Yeah, right.

No...
I KNOW WHAT YOUR POINT IS.
I WON'T DESTROY THE HUA FAMILY AS A COURTESY TO YOU.
I can't let her die so easily...

FINE. I WON'T PUNISH THE HUA FAMILY FOR A WHILE,
BUT, YOU MUST STAY HERE.

Yes, make her stay here forever!
Torture her, abuse her, make her know what she did wrong.
Let her beg for mercy.

STAY HERE AND SERVE WANGYE?
DO YOU PLAN TO BE MY WIFE OR SOME-THING?

How could I want something that complicated...?

now you just see me as just another maid who plays the qin...
who isn't pretty and full of lies...
The blinds have been cut.

I expected this from the start...
yet why does my heart hurt so much?
MISS HONG, YOU WILL LIVE HERE FROM NOW ON.

COUGH COUGH
ARE YOU UNWELL?
AH, NO?
MISS HONG?
.....
OKAY, THANKS
THEN I'LL GET GOING, IF YOU WANT ANYTHING, JUST ASK THE GUARDS OUTSIDE
So tired
CLOSE

Singing was really stressful on my body, but for Lady Hua, it was worth it.
"Do you plan to be my wife or something?"
Don't think about it, don't think about anything now...
CRUSH-
COUGH COUGH COUGH COUGH !!!
COUGH COUGH COUGH

MISS HONG!

孤芳不自賞 漫畫版

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XI XI GUO'S FREETALK

Hehehe, how moving, Gu Fang manhua's volume one is finally out. It's been a long time since it was decided that the novel would get a manhua. The hardest part about drawing this manhua is their faces...that's because my art style isn't definite and so their faces weren't that definite but maybe it's okay now...

Back then, when I was drawing for Luo Xue* manhua, there was no magazine serialisation so I was pretty carefree at drawing. I'm already exhausted this early on from Gu Fang manhua's serialisation - I see my ink running out and the due date getting closer day by day. To be honest, I could do with eight hands and I wish the sun would never rise again...anyway, at least I managed to clean out my desk before the due date...I guess that's a good thing. Sigh~

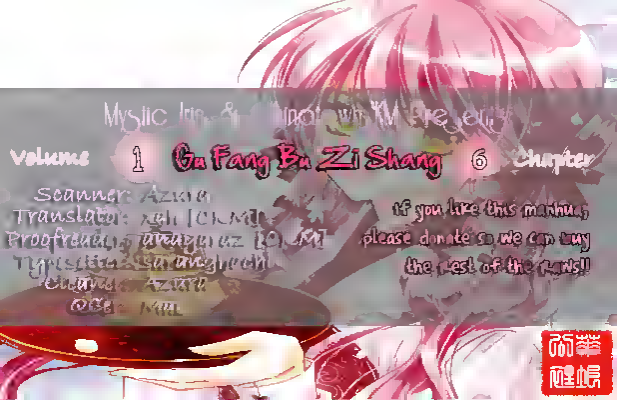
To me, Gu Fang will be an important but lengthy task, after all it's hard to draw solely for such a long, yet exciting series. I'm afraid that this manhua isn't good enough...but I'll still draw my best for this manhua, please applaud here

Thank you very much for Uei Shiang's support and for Feng Nong's continuous support, who also gave me the task of adapting Gu Fang into manhua! I still have to thank Uei Shiang again and magazine "GO". Thanks to my friends, I hope Gu Fang manhua didn't make you guys disappointed. Please look forward to the next chapter for the exciting story shall be continued in it. And for the last time, I must say thank you, thank you again~~

Translation Notes & Other

- Luo Xue manhua – Luo Xue Cheng Ran
- chinese artists don't usually have assistants like the Japanese – they complete the whole chapter by themselves. There are some mangaka who don't have assistants in Japan, but not that many.
- Feng Nong: Author of the novel, which is what this manhua is based on.
- Uei Shiang: Taiwanese publisher, publishes original novels and some manhua, mainly yaoi and shounenai (BL) though.

喜喜果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